

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras will be established in Gram Panchayat Headquarters villages.

The Gram Panchayat will be accountable to the Department of Post for ensuring proper and efficient postal services through Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.

The Sanchar Sewa Kendra will also be subject to regular supervision and inspection by the Department of Post.

Remuneration/Commission :

A fixed allowance of Rs. 300/- per month for providing counter services and for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail wherever permitted will be paid.

The agent of the Panchayat will be compensated for other postal services provided in the Panchayat areas by payment of :-

- (a) A commission of 5% of the value of stamps/stationery will be allowed at the time of purchase in normal rural areas. In hilly and tribal areas, commission at the following rates will be all allowed :-
 - (i) On sale up to Rs. 100 : 5%
 - (ii) On sale from Rs. 101 to 200 : 7.5%
 - (iii) On sale from Rs. 201 and above : 10%
- (b) A commission of 50 paise for booking and delivery of a registered article.
- (c) Commission at the prescribed rates for handling Mahila Samridhi Yojana Accounts.
- (d) Commission at prescribed rates for propagating Postal Life Insurance and National Savings Scheme.
- (e) Commission at the rates to be prescribed for providing other services.

For operating STD/PCO/Gram Panchayat Phone, Commission as prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications shall be paid.

A system of rewarding the best Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra in a Postal Circle will be introduced in order to encourage and motivate the Panchayat to ensure efficient postal services in the area.

[Translation]

Elections to Panchayats and Zila Parishads

1419. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not holding the elections of Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad of Chandigarh so

far whereas it is compulsory to hold the elections of such institutions within six months from the date of their constitution;

(b) whether the Government are aware that no stay order of any court is in force in this regard at present; and

(c) if so, the time by which the elections are likely to be held there?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The elections to the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad in the U.T. of Chandigarh were held in January, 1996, but the results could not be declared as the Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed the declaration of results on Writ Petition. The stay order new stands vacated following dismissal of the writ petition. The U.T. Administration of Chandigarh is taking further action on the formation of these bodies.

Telecommunication Facility in Rural Areas

1420. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of poor functioning of telephone system in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme for improvement in telephone service in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of rural areas likely to be benefited by the said scheme;

(e) whether the progress made in rural telecommunications system is far away from the targets;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The telephone systems in rural areas are working satisfactorily except in some difficult, inaccessible and remote areas.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) For further improving the telephone services in rural areas following steps are being taken.

(i) Provision of telephone facility to all the villages by the year 2000.